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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

IN CHARGE OF

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IOWA: *Clinton, Iowa*, is doubtless to have a second Visiting Nurse. The work of the first nurse, Elsa Tanke (Agatha Hospital, Clinton), has grown so heavy that one nurse cannot handle it. The work in Clinton is of particular interest to visiting nurses in small towns because, although Miss Tanke is under municipal supervision and reports to the Health Commissioner and the City Council, her salary and expenses are paid from private funds. All her bills and special requests are acted upon by the City Council. She does general visiting nursing in the homes and until her work became too heavy, was also the local school nurse.

WASHINGTON, D. C.: *The Instructive District Nursing Association* of Washington, D. C., has prepared a small exhibit for the Pan-American Congress. Several tiny rooms showing sick rooms before and after a visiting nurse enters them, and also showing the nurse giving care to a mother and baby, to a case of pneumonia, and to other patients, have been carefully worked out. The Board of Directors and the Superintendent worked very hard to get this exhibit ready. Very little of the explaining is done by printed signs, as so many of the delegates to this Congress do not speak English. A representative of the Spanish embassy assisted, however, in making the Spanish signs, and the few directions which decorate the exhibit are in both Spanish and English.

ILLINOIS: *The Relief and Aid Society of Winnetka* has supported a community nurse, with the help of the village council, since 1912. At first the village council gave \$300 a year towards the expenses of this nurse but this past year it has voted \$600. Mary Garretson (Mary Thompson Hospital, Chicago), is the community nurse. At first she covered the village of Winnetka and its suburbs, but recently Glencoe, a nearby suburb, has put in its own nurse, Mrs. Carpenter (St. Luke's Hospital, Chicago).

Juanita Reade (Illinois Training School, Chicago), has joined Effie Parker (Bethesda Hospital, St. Louis), as assistant Visiting Nurse in Peoria, Ill. Miss Parker has been in Peoria for over a year, having gone there from the Red Cross Town and Country Nursing Service.

Louise Volkman (Frances Willard Hospital, Chicago), has resigned from the staff of the Chicago Visiting Nurse Association, to be married.

Pauline Keuhler (Presbyterian Hospital, Chicago), has resigned from the staff of the Chicago Visiting Nurse Association to accept the position of community nurse in Whiting, Ind.

Mrs. Josephine Joakitis (Hanover Hospital, Milwaukee, Wis.), has resigned from the staff of the Visiting Nurse Association of Chicago, after seven years' service, to accept a position as special industrial nurse for the Illinois Steel Works in Gary, Ind.

The Chicago Visiting Nurses gave a Christmas party at the Nurses' Club on December 18, in order that they might get acquainted with each other, for the staff has grown so large that the nurses are afraid of losing the intimate touch that has always been one of the characteristics of the staff of the Association. At this party the nurses packed a huge barrel full of books, magazines and toys for the community nurse, Rose M. Ehrenfeld, of Hindman County, Ky., in order that the little children in Kentucky might share some of the joys of Christmas that most of the children in Chicago know so well. This party was particularly enlivened by games which made the most dignified unbend, and also by character dances in costume by a Russian nurse, a Danish nurse, and a Scotch nurse.

Thanks to the gripe epidemic which is raging through Chicago at present, the staff of the Visiting Nurse Association now numbers eighty-one nurses and is daily increasing. Mary Pritchard (Henrotin Hospital, Chicago) was loaned by the Association for one month to East Chicago, Ind., where a serious measles epidemic threatened to close the schools. During a similar epidemic of infectious diseases in Chicago, Miss Pritchard was one of a staff of five special contagious nurses, and therefore was especially well qualified to help out in East Chicago.

The four months' post-graduate course in Public Health Nursing offered by the Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy, opened January 3, with sixteen nurses in attendance. Winnipeg, Ontario, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska are represented in this group. The special lectures in public health nursing are to be given by the five superintendents of public health nursing organizations in the city: Helen W. Kelly of the School Nurses; Minnie H. Ahrens of the Infant Welfare Society; Rosalind Mackay of the Tuberculosis Nurses; Elnora Thomson of the Mental Hygiene Society; Edna L. Foley of the Visiting Nurse Association. The lecture on Industrial Visiting Nursing is to be given by Eva Andersen, special visiting nurse for the Illinois Steel Company of Chicago.

The work has been so arranged that two mornings a week are devoted to lecture work, one morning to an inspection visit, three half-days to study periods, and three entire days to observation and practice work with the different public health organizations in the city. The work was planned in this way at the request of the Public Health Nursing Committee, which thought that whole-day time would, in the long run, prove more helpful to the students than part time. The course promises to be a very successful one and we hope that it will become an established institution.

NATIONAL: A nation-wide Baby Week has been called in the month of March by the Children's Bureau. Printed material enabling nursing organizations and women's clubs to make this Baby Week a success in their own communities can be obtained from the Children's Bureau; but every public health nurse in the country can add her mite to its success by beginning now to read the two pamphlets on "Prenatal Care" and "Infant Care" written for and given free of charge by the Children's Bureau, Washington. After these pamphlets have been read and digested, a nurse simply can not help passing the information on to all the young mothers of her acquaintance. Knowledge of baby welfare and work with babies is never without its usefulness. An American nurse serving with an English unit, "somewhere in France," recently wrote to a nurse in Chicago that the little French village in which she was stationed needed infant welfare about as badly as any place she had ever entered, and that she and the other nurses were going to start a baby conference in their off hours, as soon as they could master enough French to make the mothers understand them.

The City of Chicago Department of Public Welfare has recently issued a Social Service Directory which nearly all of the public health nurses of the city helped to compile. Social workers used to think that such a directory could not be compiled without a great deal of expense, for both the collection of the material and the printing of the same, but this is a small, two hundred and fifty page, paper-covered book which gives sufficient and useful information about nearly every social or semi-social agency in this big city, and it is of inestimable help to the busy worker who does not know where to send a mother who applies for medical aid or a man who wants work.

Although Chicago had just as busy a Christmas season this year as ever before, it was a tremendous help to public health nurses to realize that almost all of their men had found work and that nearly all of their families were at least warmed and fed. A family without work in Chicago today is an unusual one. A year ago, visiting nurses dreaded to go into their homes, for not a day passed but some necessary part

of an already very scanty income was cut off because the person earning that income had lost his work. The aftermath of unemployment is, of course, indebtedness, mal-nutrition, and bad health; but conditions this year are, in many ways, a decided improvement over those of a year ago.

MONTHLY REPORTS: The Visiting Nurse Association of Chicago, this year, in common with many other associations, is to collect all its statistics from its group of dismissed patients. Heretofore new patients have been very carefully analysed. This has been unsatisfactory, for frequently patients taken on the books just before the month closed had no attending physicians, were not diagnosed, and sometimes could not be analysed correctly by age or birthplace. Hereafter, the analysis will be made of dismissed patients only, consequently for monthly and annual statistics we will doubtless know as much about the patients as we are ever going to know, and our figures will be far more satisfactory. This method has been followed for some years at the Henry Street Nurses' Settlement, New York, and is also used by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in compiling its statistics.

THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING: The executive secretary, Ella Phillips Crandall, recently spoke in Terre Haute, Ind., where the organization of a Visiting Nurse Association and the employment of a community nurse is being discussed. She also spoke in Detroit, Mich. During the latter part of January and February she expects to make a tour through the southern states.

NOTICE TO PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES: We have learned that there is a misapprehension in the minds of many nurses that unless they are actually engaged in public health nursing in one way or another they are not eligible to membership in the National Organization for Public Health Nursing. While this was a condition of membership when the association was organized, it was repealed within the first six months, because it became immediately obvious that nothing could be more contradictory than to rule out those who might have been public health nurses at one time but for one reason or another had been obliged to return to other fields of work, or to eliminate superintendents of training schools to whom we must forever look for our supply of public health nurses.